

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, March 1, 2004

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, March 1, 2004, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair
Ric Knight, Vice Chair
Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson

Peg Coleman
Gabe Kelemen

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Mike Bomgardner
Nick Colonna
Mark McCartney

Citizens present

Hub Turner
Ted, Stephanie & Allison Ranft

Kathleen Finnegan

Craig Lane

1. *Minutes:* On **motion** by Ric Knight, **seconded** by Nick Colonna, the **minutes of the February 2, 2004 meeting were approved** by unanimous vote.
2. *Public Comment:* (i) Kathleen Finnegan, whose property at 817 Bellevue Court, N.E. backs to Dry Hollow Road, N.E. where it operates as secondary or emergency access to Hazel Reid Elementary School, noted use of the road by pedestrians, bicyclists and skate boarders. Motorists are beginning to use this back access already and, once the middle school opens and redistricting will send children from Exeter, more pedestrian and vehicle traffic will occur. Ms. Finnegan indicated that children now dive off their skateboards to avoid being hit by cars and asked what can be done to improve safety. She has spoken with Tom Sullivan with the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) and he indicated that they could only respond to direction from the Town. Calvin Grow indicated that staff would study both vehicle speed and volume on the road, as well as other safety constraints such as poor sight distance, narrowness and absence of sidewalks, in evaluating the situation and report back to the Committee next month. However, he noted that as the LCPS was still engaged in punch list work, it might be a favorable time to seek appropriate safety measures as part of that process. (ii) Hub Turner, resident at 1107 Bradfield Drive, S.W. asked about follow-up studies of speeding in his neighborhood. Staff indicated they would plan to use the NuMetric “stealth” counters in front of his house for three days’ data. Sgt. Mark McCartney indicated that Bradfield Drive, S.W. was pretty much permanently on the selective enforcement list. (iii) Ted and Stephanie Ranft of 212 North King Street confirmed that they were attempting to work through the traffic calming process to curb speeding on North King Street by traffic entering and exiting the older limits of Town. The Committee noted that their earlier plans to combine with the Way Finding Signage initiative for a landscaped sign and calming feature near the Toll House seemed to be slowed down, as the Town was concentrating its resources on signs to be located in the Historic District

and focusing on moving traffic to parking areas or Downtown features. The Ranfts inquired about a crosswalk across North King Street at the old St. Johns' Church and were advised of plans to include the crosswalk as part of drainage improvements scheduled for construction this upcoming year. They also indicated they are prepared to follow the traffic calming program set out in the Task Force report and the Committee indicated they will support moving attacking speeding on North King Street through the process.

3. *Smart Trailer report:* (i) Mark McCartney reported that the Department has continued to have problems with the Smart Trailer. (ii) Although recent speed studies at Bradfield Drive, S.W. showed an average speed of 27 mph, Mark McCartney reported clocking one driver at more than 60 mph. The street will be restudied and continues on the list for selective enforcement. (See No. 2.) (iii) Mark McCartney indicated that recent complaints by residents who believe that Meade Drive, S.W. traffic is by-passing the stop signs by cutting through their street led to placing the Smart Trailer on Deermeadow Place, S.W. and he will report the results at next month's meeting. Calvin Grow indicated that Engineering and Public Works had recorded traffic volumes and speeds for Deermeadow Place, S.W. prior to installation of the stop signs and would conduct follow-up studies for the April meeting.
4. *North King Street and South King Street speed studies:* Calvin Grow and Mike Bomgardner reported that problems with the NuMetrics "stealth" counters precluded conducting speed studies on North King Street but they hoped to have these for the April meeting. (See No. 2.) South King Street studies conducted in response to Lyle Werner's request revealed average speeds of 28 mph southbound and 27 mph northbound. Mike Bomgardner will check how these relate to the most recent prior studies in this area.
5. *Residential Traffic Management Plan update, etc...:* (i) Calvin Grow noted that he had attached Fairfax and Arlington County materials regarding their traffic calming programs. The Committee will study these materials and our current plan, and plan to start the dialog regarding recommended updates/changes to Leesburg's program at April's meeting. (ii) Calvin Grow also noted new Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) provisions for midblock crosswalks and stated that he would like to install the yield warnings in connection with the crosswalk across Catocin Circle, S.E. serving the Post Office. (iii) Calvin Grow also noted inclusion of a study analyzing the safety of marked versus unmarked crosswalks and the most recent list of contact information for HOAs in Leesburg.
6. *Update on Comprehensive Plan schedule:* Nick Colonna reported that staff were beginning to write draft sections of the plan as well as analyze how it should speak regarding strengths and weaknesses perceived in the 1997 Plan. Focus on the commission, board and committee input process has been

deferred and Nick Colonna hopes to report regarding these at the April meeting.

7. *Committee member concerns:* Vice Mayor Jackson, Liz Whiting and Calvin Grow reported that Liz Whiting presented the Committee's recommendation for extending the fencing north along the Route 15 Bypass. Mr. Jackson and Councilmember Zoldos stated that they would support the recommendation even though it was not supported by the Town Manager. Other Council members didn't reveal their position on this item. The matter should be on the Town Council agenda for Monday, March 8th. Committee members are encouraged to attend and/or otherwise communicate their support and why the Committee feels this is an important project. (ii) Calvin Grow and Liz Whiting reported that there is a meeting regarding training materials for board and commission (and committee) members on Thursday, March 4th starting at 6:30 pm. Liz Whiting cannot attend since there is a Lovettsville Town Council meeting that night. Ric Knight will let Liz Whiting know if he can attend; if not, Liz Whiting will send out the call for committee representation via email on Tuesday, March 2nd. (iii) Gabe Kelemen raised concerns regarding pedestrian safety and asked whether the midblock crosswalk standards could apply to a crosswalk near the West Market Street entrance to the Town parking garage. (iv) Ric Knight reported that the trail along Fairview Street, N.W. at the Johnson property was clogged with mud, resulting in joggers being back on the street. (v) Mr. Jackson reported that while the Postal Service plans to construct a new Post Office on the north side of Leesburg, present plans would keep both the Catoctin Circle, S.E. and Downtown facilities in service.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, April 5, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.